

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Generally, zero ~~of~~or more components may be connected to each bus on a given platform. For a PCI bus, these components are called PCI *agents* (also known as PCI *units*). For example, the PCI agents of architecture 100 include a SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) host adapter 114, and input/output (I/O) unit 116, a network interface card (NIC) 118, an audio unit 120, a graphics card 122, and a motion video unit 124.

Please replace the following paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] One advantage of a delayed transaction is that the bus-~~in~~is not held in wait states while completing an access to a slow device. While the originating master rearbiterates for the bus, other bus masters are allowed to use the bus bandwidth that would normally be wasted holding the originating master in wait states. Another advantage is that all posted (memory write) data is not required to be ~~transferred~~ transferred before the request is accepted.

Please replace the following paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] During an initial portion of each operation, a data transfer ~~request~~request is provided to the PCI agent (i.e., dual-channel PCI SCSI controller 302) that is to service the request. In response, the PCI agent will attempt to retrieve appropriate data by generating a PCI read transaction to the PCI bridge 200. Once the request is acknowledged by the PCI bridge 200, operations are performed on the primary side of PCI bridge 200 to deliver data to posting buffer 212P. These operations are generally asynchronous to the operations performed by the secondary side of PCI bridge 200.

These operations also are competing with other ongoing transfer operations (not shown), wherein the various transfers are arbitrated by PCI bridge 200.